

A SUITCASE THE COLOR OF DARK MUSTARD

I found it
abandoned
on the street
I emptied two satchels of magazines
into it
there's room for more
but it's hard to move quickly
with a suitcase full of magazines
there's just nowhere to put them
that's satisfactory
one of those little problems
watching my life grow
into larger suitcases

PLAYBACK

it was the last job of the day
a middle-aged woman & a small boy
they're finally in
she begins to ramble
I listen at first
she wants to go to Joseph St
there is no such street in this town
she rambles on
I'm to take all the side streets
that's all right with me
but first
we have to establish what town
she's going to
I don't know which direction to take
because she won't give me the town
"What difference does that make? Why don't
you just do what I tell you?"
I let out an audible sigh
that immediately set her off
do this do that
if you go that way I won't pay you
I don't even know where we're going yet
we've only gone around the corner
I decide to pull over & tell her
to take another cab
she won't get out
more threats
what's my cab number?
she'll call my company
she'll call the police
on & on
finally she gets out
leaves her son in the cab

throws open all the doors except mine
making more threats all the while
she disappears inside a building
to make her numerous phone calls
I can't leave of course
with her kid sitting in back
I wasn't about to leave him on the street either
it had been a tough day
I wondered when it would end
after a few minutes
I got on the radio
& explained the situation to the dispatcher
she was calling him on the phone
at the same time
meanwhile
my frantic description of this flaky broad
had set the kid off
he was crying & whining
after what seemed like forever
she came out of that building
opened all the cab doors again
removed the child
& got the bloody hell out of my life

ONE OF THE BIG FIVE

only Warner Brothers
laid it out
with the thinnest of veneers
MGM
allegedly the most successful
showed mostly
its own mediocrity
Paramount
had Hope & Crosby
take it from there
RKO struggled with screwball & succeeded
Fox had the least to offer
if you were a troubled soul
looking for a little reality
Warners could at least get you started
Cagney Flynn Bogart Raft Sheridan Davis Barrymore
Rin Tin Tin
reality & bullshit were hand in hand